

# THE ASYLUM

*Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society*

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Volume IV, No. 3

Autumn, 1986

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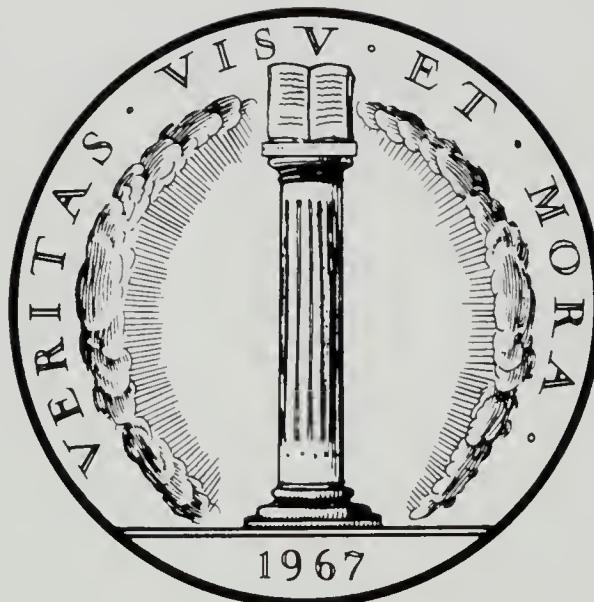
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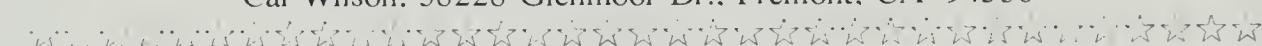
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## THE ASYLUM

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# From the Editor

What a difference two months can make! In mid-July, our problem was survival; in mid-September it is complacency! Last issue's "Articles of War" produced a phenomenal response from our membership: enough material for this *thick* issue and for the next one! Carling Gresham led the charge with *two* articles, and Reinhold Jordan won the prize for distance by sending his contribution all the way from Schweinfurt. Moreover, we have quality as well as quantity; I think you will agree with us that these are very respectable submissions. More good news; advertising (over and above our stalwart "regulars") has begun to trickle in. These dollars, in effect, subsidize our dues and keep membership in the N.B.S. within the reach of everyone.

Our only remaining enemy is complacency. We are only *one* issue ahead, so keep that copy coming! With regard to advertising, allow us to wax poetical:

Keep our dues one-third those of the A.N.A.

Take out an ad in *The Asylum* today!

And now a final word on this subject from Carling Gresham:

We NEED editorial copy for the coming issues. Look, if you people will just put the bare facts on paper and send it to Joel he'll take care of the rest!! NOT TO WORRY about punctuation, grammar, etc. for that's HIS job ... editing. Remember, Hemingway said it best ... "Behind every successful author there's an editor saying 'Jesus Ernest! Kan't you spell anything korreckly?'" Joel will try to make Hemingways out of ALL of you, but you've GOT to give HIM a chance! Try it! You'll like it!

Thanks, Carling, "truer words were never spoke". Now hear this, all prospective Hemingways: we need a review of Vol. 1 No. 1 of *The New England Journal of Numismatics*. We would love to publish it in the next number, so hurry!

## PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

*Winter, 1986*

Part two (and moral) of Carling Gresham's " 'Professionals', Pet Rocks, Pet Food and Pet Peeves" "

"Saga of Utah's Largest Manhunt" by Harry F. Campbell (a true incident from the copper mines that supplied the mint's needs)

A reprint of James C. Risk's "Some Particular Advice to Those About to Start a Collection of Coins" with introductory remarks by Marvin Kay, M.D.

An "On the Record" about Edmund Farwell Slafter's "The Vermont Coinage," by Robert Wester.

*Spring, 1987*

"Research: Necessity, Curiosity, and a Roll of the Dice..." by Carling Gresham.

*Sometime in 1987*

Keith N. Kelman will tell how he collected one of the finest American numismatic libraries ever assembled.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

Let me congratulate you on the completion of your first outing as editor of *The Asylum*. It is a fine piece of work, and I am particularly gratified to see that our publication retains its lively character.

Let me also express my thanks for your review of *The Journal Of The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society*. Comments from those not directly involved with the project are particularly useful. Since your observations raise a number of questions, I would like to utilize this forum to address same.

You expressed dislike for the use of the popular terms "Buffalo Nickel" and "Mercury Dime". While I must admit that I too sometimes cringe at the commonplace usage of the slang "Buffs" and "Merc", the choice to describe such pieces as Buffalo Nickels and Mercury Dimes was the author's own and, I believe, these terms are likely to be the ones most recognizable to those for whom such an article is intended, that is, the collector of limited expertise.

Regarding *The Journal's* system of numbering, in a strictly sequential manner without reference to volume, I will take the easy way out and plead my innocence. To borrow from the popular token, "I follow in the steps of my illustrious predecessor". In fairness to the past editor, I must say also that I see no harm in excluding a system of numbering by volume. It has been my observation that a great many publications which have adhered to the concept of volumes have been published at such irregular intervals as to make the system meaningless.

I welcome any questions or comments from the readers of *The Asylum*.

David W. Lange  
San Francisco, California

To the editor:

I have found that when buying books for my collection that it is better to buy any way but at auction.

When you buy at auction the prices you have to pay are completely out of line (inflated), plus the fact that the major dealers charge you postage, handling, shipping and a buyer's fee.

When you buy privately you can bargain and get a better price. Also, there are book dealers who will give you a discount. I also find

there are better prices available from the smaller dealers.

The other thing is [that] when you bid at auction in mail bid sales and enter a low bid, the larger dealers say that any unreasonable bid will not be considered; however, they never say what an unreasonable bid is.

Jules J. Bloch II

Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania

*Jules Bloch has raised some interesting points. This space is open for replies from dealers.*

-- ed.

To the editor:

Well I came, saw your ad, and was conquered. This all occurred in November, 1985. Now and then I wondered if I would ever hear anything from the N.R.S. I finally assumed I was dealing with a cousin of a pornography dealer and I kissed my \$7.50 goodbye.

Now it appears I must reassess my position. While \$7.50 seems a bit steep for one issue of *The Asylum*, I've promptly shot off \$22.75 for all the back issues. Now you've got to admit I'm a bibliomaniac! Well, I've recently added more bookcases and the empty space offends me.

I will attempt to begin to start to think about writing something for our publication. However, I'm not sure that anybody who would publish my drivel would command my respect.

R.A. Taylor

Salinas, California

*Welcome aboard, R.A., and send us that article. We can appreciate your parting shot; as Groucho Marx once said, "I wouldn't belong to a club that would have me."*

To the editor:

Recently I experienced a great personal tragedy. I lost my entire numismatic and philatelic library, including many rare editions. I also lost part of my numismatic collection, all of my philatelic collection and all of my deltiology collection. I feel I must write to warn other collectors. What happened to me could happen to them.

I lived in Bloomington, Ind. As the reader may know, it is the seat of Indiana University, the largest state university in Indiana. During the 1960s there was much student unrest, and as in several other university towns across the country, student activists took over the city government.

In Bloomington one of their first acts was to pass a housing-inspection ordinance, the purpose being to upgrade all rental housing for the benefit of tenants, especially student tenants. Over the years I passed three such inspections with no trouble. But people have a tendency to move on. Eventually all the student activists left town and the local yokels again gained control of the city government. On my

fourth inspection I was ordered to get rid of all books. Books, I was told, "are a fire hazard." I fought the decision unsuccessfully, and the end result was that I left Bloomington, Ind., in one night with just what I could carry with me to avoid arrest.

As I see it there are two lessons in my experience for other hobbyists. They are:

1. Never live in a city or town that has been taken over by college students.

2. Never live in a city or town that has mandated periodic housing inspections. Hobbyists and all others with intellectual interests will be fair game. Ignorance will be enforced.

Edward B. Kirk  
Largo, Fla.

*Editor's Note: We are indebted to Board Member Mary Leeuw for bringing this sad story, published in the August 19, 1986 number of World Coin News, to our attention.*

To the editor:

I rarely write letters of this sort, but your pleas and threats are so persuasive that I am unable to contain myself. The following questions, thoughts and concerns will quickly establish my status as a novice bibliomaniac. The fact that I have been able to maintain my status as a novice, despite membership in the NBS from its beginning, may well be regarded as a perverse accomplishment of some note. If nothing else, this letter will probably cure you of ever again making indiscriminate requests for correspondence.

It appears to me that there are many more bibliophiles than those who are members of NBS. If this weren't the case, there probably wouldn't be enough business to support the many numismatic book sellers currently in operation. Can we ask that the numismatic book dealers include a word of encouragement and perhaps a membership application in their next sale catalogs? Maybe they would be willing to donate a mailing list and you could send everyone a sample copy of the current issue of *The Asylum*. It doesn't seem to me that book dealers would see anything but positive fallout for themselves as a result of their active support of the Society.

It seems to me that controversy is a healthy manifestation of the diverse interests of many in this hobby. Certainly, Cal Wilson and Carling Gresham have done their part in the recent past. I also think it was healthy for *Coin World* to give as much space as they did to Howard Ruff's comments. Some of the dealer response was painfully self-serving and, in my opinion, out of order. That same dealer mindset is certainly a part of the position taken by the ANA as outlined in your editorial. Cal Wilson has, indeed, proven to be a prophet. He has

long been concerned with the degree of control exercised over the ANA by the large dealers. After reading what those dealers had to say in *Coin World* about Howard Ruff, it is no surprise that they might attempt to exercise as much censorship as possible through the organization they control (ANA). Recent developments also indicate to me that dealer attempts to influence and control the ANA go well beyond censorship.

If the truth were known, Howard Ruff probably struck some very responsive chords in the hearts of many collectors. Whether dealers like to hear it or not, they are not the universally benevolent group they would have you believe them to be. I have been ripped off by coin dealers. When I said so, who paid attention? Ruff certainly got some attention. I'll admit that in the case of ordinary coin sales, as long as I returned the merchandise within the proper period of time, either my credit card account was credited or the money refunded within 30-60 days. Of course, that is nothing like the immediate payment the dealer insisted upon in order to ship the coins to start with.

More to the point, in auction situations there is rarely any redress available. What can be done about over-rated, over-graded, over-described books which are offered in mail bid sales? Should the NBS consider the role of arbitrator?

I have lots of questions. Perhaps some of the following would be of interest to more than just a few of the members:

1. Is there a standard for what an adequate auction catalog description of a book should include? Should the NBS adopt a standard as a service to buyers and sellers alike?
2. What is an appropriate or recommended format for an inventory card that would include all appropriate data on a given volume that a collector should want to include in a permanent record?
3. How important are Prices Realized Lists in auction catalog collecting? Does a clearing house for PRLs exist? Is there a dealer who specializes in this? Is there, in fact, a market for PRLs alone? Does a market exist for reproductions of PRLs? Does the presence or absence of a PRL affect the price of a given catalog? Should it? How much? What is the pricing effect of a reproduced (photocopied) PRL as a part of an auction catalog offering, as opposed to the original PRL?
4. Would the NBS recommend a general reference (the so-called definitive work or standard) on book collecting? Is there a general reference that devotes itself specifically to numismatic book collecting?
5. Is there any source of broad spectrum information on rarity scales and rarity guides? Do researchers and authors simply develop their own? Is there a standard rarity scale or guide for coins? Is there a standard scale for books and literature? Has anyone ever attempted to

compile and compare on a relative basis many of the different rarity guides and scales that appear in literature in general? Is this an appropriate subject for a research project?

If there is a grain of interest or substance in anything I have said, I'd be happy to pursue it at your suggestion.

Leo J. Guibault, Jr.

New Orleans, Louisiana

*Editor's note: A "grain of interest"? How about a whole beach? Leo has raised any number of very important questions. We urge each one of you to ponder these questions and send us your opinions. (You, too, Leo)! If we can get a lively interchange going, we will all be the richer for it.*

## Numismatic Bibliomania Society News

### NBS ANNUAL MEETING August 6, 1986 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The eighth annual meeting of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by President George Kolbe.

Denis Loring offered a short presentation regarding the Superior auction of the Robinson Brown collection, and told the attendees that, in addition to the regular issue catalogue prepared for the sale, Superior will be publishing ten copies in a deluxe edition. Nine of these pieces will be issued as presentation copies to the owner of the collection, principals of the auction firm, and cataloguers. The final deluxe copy will be offered as the last lot in the sale and will be sold to the highest bidder.

Board member and past editor Carling Gresham issued a plea for articles to be published in *The Asylum*.

Member Mark Auerbach updated the audience with regard to Martin Gengerke's latest edition of "American Numismatic Auctions," and encouraged all members to provide Martin with any available information not presently included in his work.

Member John Bergman gave a brief talk on his collecting areas, and displayed a number of lovely books from his library. Included were several pieces which represented outstanding bindings, and an original Snowden on Washington Medals, which is totally original, and appeared to have been made yesterday.

The keynote speaker at the meeting was charter member Remy Bourne. Following Remy's talk, there was a round of open discussion from the membership. One of the main topics centered around the possibility of having additional meetings of the NBS in conjunction with such major numismatic conventions as the ANA mid-year or the New York International Coin Show in December. Cal Wilson suggested that some of the "driving forces" in various geographic regions could initiate meetings at major conventions around the country. He pointed out that several such gatherings had been held during the Long Beach shows, with attendances in the area of 25 to 35 collectors. Member Mark Auerbach agreed to try to organize a meeting during the New York International.

Denis Loring brought up the fact that there is presently no ANA exhibit category for numismatic literature; and he suggested that the proper officials in ANA be contacted to determine the possibility of creating such a category. Nancy Green, NBS member and ANA librarian, remarked that a gentleman named John Pryor has recently offered to fund an exhibit award for such a purpose, and that the ANA board has been advised of this. At the present time, there are two schools of thought regarding ANA exhibits. One is that there are already too many exhibit categories, and adding additional topics would be burdensome for the judges. The other is that it is advisable to include as many categories as the membership wants, in order to increase participation in the exhibits. At the present time, the matter has been tabled by the ANA board, and will probably be discussed at the next interim meeting. Gordon Frost suggested that in the next issue of *The Asylum*, we insert a petition which members could sign and forward to the ANA board of governors, encouraging them to consider the new category.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 p.m.

## NBS BOARD MEETING

August 7, 1986

The annual meeting of the officers and board members of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Thursday, August 7, at 9:00 a.m. Board members present were President Kolbe, Vice President Champa, and Board members Gresham, Leeuw, and Wilson.

Acting upon a motion by Mr. Gresham, the Board unanimously passed a resolution creating a N.B.S writer's award to be presented annually to the author of the best article appearing in *The Asylum*. Vice President Champa graciously offered to donate a monetary gift to the N.B.S. sufficient to self perpetuate the cost of the award. President Kolbe suggested that a three man committee be formed to determine each year's recipient. Following some discussion, it was decided that President Kolbe would approach Randolph Zander to ask if he would agree to be the committee chairman, and select two additional committee members to assist in the program.

In other actions, it was unanimously decided that the N.B.S. would request a club booth at the 1987 A.N.A. convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, the board unanimously passed a motion to encourage members to display noncompetitive numismatic literature exhibits at the Atlanta Convention. Hopefully, a sizable number of subject exhibits will result in the adoption of a competitive category for such displays during future conventions.

In an effort to more closely control the coordination of member's dues with the mailing of *The Asylum*, it was moved and passed that, effective with the 1987 elections, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer would be combined into one office, and one additional Board member would be elected.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Kolbe at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cal Wilson  
Board Member

# Overview of Obscure Numismatic Periodicals

Remy Bourne

Minneapolis, Minnesota

[Editor's note: Remy was originally scheduled to give this talk to the N.B.S. Convention in 1983, but a heart attack prevented him. We are happy to report that Remy is now fully recovered, and, as you will shortly see, in top form. Your editor is indebted to Past President Cal Wilson for tape recording and transcribing Remy's speech.]

As I was about to say three years ago (laughter) ... I had a little illness [so] I crossed out 1983 and now it says 1986. It's a great feeling to be here after a heart attack; and then John Ford caught the disease a few days later. What I'd like to do tonight is give you some thoughts and observations on numismatic periodicals published from 1857 to 1960. I will divide that span into four parts; the first being 1857 to 1900. I'll then show you a few from 1900 to 1940; a few from 1940 to 1950; and a few from 1950 to 1960. I will cover three types or categories of periodicals tonight — one will be the publishing type typified by *Coin World*, *Numismatic News*, and *Bank Note Reporter*; there are the dealer periodicals ...; then there are those that are published by coin clubs and such ...

Also, out in the audience I have a prototype of a book — this is the deluxe edition that I've just made for tonight's presentation — ... it's about twenty to twenty-five percent completed; I hope to have it all done by next year — I'd like to show you what I'm doing. Now I'm showing you the earliest periodical in my collection (illustrations). If it's volume 1, number 1, it's pictured; and I'm also showing on the second page the inventory that I have and giving you the information as to how many issues of each periodical (were printed). Hopefully this will help those who are collecting periodicals in the future to know what's out there and how many are needed to make a complete collection. I'd like everyone to sign the book tonight as a momento for me to have for this 1986 Bibliomania Society meeting.

After these excellent speakers tonight, I will practice the five "B's" of public speaking: which are 'Be brief, brother, be brief.' [Begins slide presentation which starts with format and style utilized for his periodical book].

What I'd like to do is begin with an overview of the obsolete and obscure periodicals. Since 1858, there have been approximately 200 different ones published. From 1858 to 1900 there were more than fifty. The first one that I considered — three years ago, when I was first preparing this presentation — *Norton's Literary Letter*, but after further research I have decided that this is merely a fixed price list of rare and valuable books along with some numismatic literature written up to that time. The one that, in my opinion, might take its place as the first numismatic periodical .. is the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia's [publication]. This [organization] started in 1858 with seven people. Joseph Mickley was the president from its inception until 1867.

One question I'd like to ask the audience: How many of you collect *The Numismatist* as the official periodical of the ANA? (Show of hands). I'd like to ask

also, if this won't embarrass too many people, how many of you out there have what you think is a complete set of the ANA's official periodical? (Show of hands). How many of you have *Plain Talk*? *Plain Talk* was the first official ANA publication in 1891 — not *The Numismatist*. If you want the official complete collection, you need *Plain Talk* from 1891. So it's just a little interesting sidelight to collecting the periodicals ... and you'll need to collect both of these series to fill your collection.

One dealer who was around at that time was Ebenezer Locke Mason, who published quite a few of his periodicals and fixed price lists in a magazine format and for a few years issued *Mason's Coin Collector Herald*, which had a lot of editorial comment and stories along with his fixed price lists, which was usual for a lot of these periodicals at the time. Another dealer at that time was Charles Steigerwalt, who published four periodicals, the first being *The Coin Journal* ... in the 1880's. It [later] went into a booklet form in the mid-1880's, and then became *The Numismatic News* in the 1890's. The fourth one was called *The Curio*. But again, I believe that this one was really a fixed price list and wouldn't qualify as a periodical.

*The Numismatic Journal* was published by L. S. Drownes for about three years (beginning in) 1877. Another dealer publication at that time was [S. K.] Harzfeld's *Numismatic Circular* in 1877. I've only been able to trace two issues so far — No. 1 and No. 2, and if anyone has any information of this [periodical], I'd be interested in hearing from you.

In these periodicals, as well as in the better known ones, during the period from 1858 to 1900, you'll find that a lot of the material was reprinted from one another's publications frequently and without permission.

The importance of collecting the numismatic periodicals is that they give you a feel for the tempo of the times. They give you a feel for the "industry" and the state of its health in the 1800's. They tell you about the people and their personalities, [just] as you find in today's publications. And, the problems were interesting in the pre-1900's. They [included] grading problems; counterfeit problems; dealer problems; and also bad debt problems. So, you can see, nothing has really changed — it's all full circle.

In collecting periodicals of this vintage, you will soon discover that, in many cases, these publications began as combined journals for both stamp and coin collectors, appealing to both hobbies. However, the larger subscription base consisted of stamp collectors; hence they dropped coin collecting from (their articles) and went to basically stamp material.

An interesting one ... *De Kuriosity Cabinet*, by [W. P.] Brown, which started out [being printed] phonetically [for] the first several issues, and [was later] sanitized into the English version. [Brown] then went to work for Scott's; I'm not sure whether he sold out to Scott's, but he worked for them in the 1880's; and started again with his fixed price lists in the 1890's with *The List of Copper Coins* and *The Price of Copper Coins*. Anyone collecting the older fixed price lists ... will find that these were standard preprinted lists with dealers' names imprinted on the front cover. Several dealers had the same lists, and the only difference was the name on the outside.

A periodical that you'll find somewhat frequently in the auctions today by George Kolbe, Cal Wilson and other [literature dealers] is *The American Numismatist*, by Charles Leal. He published twelve issues and then sold or merged into *The Collector's Magazine*, for, I believe, only Volume 2, Number 1.

The last periodical I'd like to show you for this period of time — 1858 to 1900 — is *The Decorah Numismatic Journal* by Cooley and Halway. They said they were going to publish four issues in 1875. In the April issue they printed a notice of their 'demise' — stating that they died on April 1, 1875, basically from lack of subscribers ... But, they did finish out [the four issues] — one of the few periodicals that did complete its obligation of four issues. Cooley and Halway later, in the 1890's, published some stamp periodicals.

The period from 1900 to 1940 witnessed the birth of approximately thirty to forty periodicals. Some of the typical ones during this time period were *The Hobby Writer*, *The Collector*, and *The Chicago Collector's Monthly*. Again, these periodicals tried to appeal to a broad base of collectors. For example, *The Decorah Journal* covered stamps, archaeology, and numismatics. Many contained [articles] on cameras and whatever, trying to keep their publications alive. But, with few exceptions, all of these were short-lived. [One of these short-lived publications] was published by a dealer named G. C. Adams. He put out four issues of *The Coin Gallery* in 1905 and 1906.

One of the more interesting dealer/publishers was Tom Elder, who first produced *The Numismatic Philistine*. I've only been able to track down two issues, emitted in 1909. Then he came out with *The Elder Monthly* in 1910, and he later [renamed it] *The Elder Magazine*. He subsequently issued *Collector Notes* which you will find available occasionally from dealers; [and] you'll also find them in Elder's mid-1920s catalogues. I've not collected Elder extensively; and I'm not sure of how many issues of *Collector Notes* he published during that time period, but I hope to (obtain information on this) in the future.

One of the rarest [periodicals] of the twentieth century dealers, I think, is *Mehl's Numismatic Monthly*. It was published over a ten-year span, beginning in 1908, and had, I believe, 118 issues. There are probably less than a dozen sets available today. I feel that it's rarer in a sense than a complete set of *The Numismatist*.

Another one — and an interesting one in the sense that it was published jointly by Edgar Adams and [Wayte] Raymond — was *The Coin & Medal Bulletin*. It was later published by Raymond alone in the 1920s.

With regard to the Guttag Brothers — if anyone has information on . . . [their periodical], I'd like to know. The only ones I've seen have been Volume six and up. I believe from talking with a couple of people in the last several years that prior to volume six, the "periodical" was a single-page fixed price list; and when they reached volume six they began inserting editorial comment, and started [issuing serialized numbers].

Another periodical issued by Wayte Raymond was *Coin Topics*, which started out in newspaper format, and evolved into a booklet.

Many of these periodicals, especially [those by] Elder, Mehl, Raymond and Adams [are a] great source for [tracking] the price trends of coins over the past fifty or so years.

Now for the 1940s — actually we'll look at a few of the periodicals of the 1950s which were started in the '40's — perhaps the finest periodical ever produced — at least in my mind — was *The Numismatic Review*. I think that it had some of the finest feature articles of the time (and) it had beautiful plates in it. For whatever reason it wasn't continued, it's a shame.

*Numisma.* We hear about *Numisma* by New Netherlands Coin Company, but [another] *Numisma* was privately printed, I believe, in Pittsburgh, and it dealt with foreign coins primarily. There were six issues over a span of about ten years. Fifty copies were printed of the first issue. I have not seen many volume no. one's, no volume two's, [but] you will occasionally see volumes three, four and five.

I'd like to ask the audience now, how many collect Kosoff catalogues by sale number? [Show of hands]. How many of you are aware that his numbered sales appeared in his periodical *Numismatic Gallery Monthly*? A lot of people haven't been, but have become aware of this over the past couple of years. [So if you are going to collect Kosoff sales] by number, you'll have to [also] collect the *Monthly*.

A reverse question is how many of you collect periodicals, [but don't] collect catalogues? [If you do] you'll find that you need Katen's *Sale No. 14* to obtain Volume I, No. 1 of *Katen's Koin Kapers*. I believe that Katen only published numbers 2, 3, 4 and one additional publication (unnumbered).

*Coin Collector's Digest* is something that you'll find out there very frequently; it's very common. I believe what happened during this era was that a lot of Volume I, No. 1's [were published by various concerns] in order to build up a large subscription base. So, what you'll find (with *Coin Collector's Digest*, as well as with a large number of other periodicals is that Volume I, Nos. 2, 3, and 4 generally do not exist, simply because the periodical didn't survive. Most [publishers] tried to make their money off the advertising, but lacked the paid subscription base, or vice versa; hence most folded after the first issue or so. They probably mailed out a thousand or two of the first issue, received only about fifty responses for subscriptions, and decided to get the hell out of the business.

However, one that did survive was *The Philatelic Press*, which was started by the Lawrence Brothers in Iowa in 1924. They built a large subscription base to pay for the paper's cost, and they profited by the ads which they sold . . . I had a discussion with Armand Champa this morning, and I told him that I had gone down and visited Ray Lawrence once, and he had all of the original subscription [orders] sent to him since 1924 in his attic. If you ever subscribed to his periodical, your envelope, letter, or whatever, was up in his attic. I remember standing there — I can tell the story now because the gentleman has unfortunately passed away — and he invited me upstairs to one of the rooms [in order] to get a lot of the old issues of *The Philatelic Press* to take home with me; and we stood on money bags which were piled there in order to reach the upper limits of the closet.

Another periodical from the forties was *Kelly's Coins and Chatter*, which essentially was a fixed price list.

In the 1950's there appeared another twenty-five to thirty-five new publications. (Among these were) *The Numismatic Advertiser*, *The Far East Numismatic Digest*, *The Western Coin Journal*, *Coin Talk Magazine*, and *The Sentinel*. A lot of these are very frequently offered in one or two numbers, but very seldom have I seen them offered in higher numbers. New Netherlands *Numisma* was started during this period of time. It began as a question and answer forum, and contained several mail bid auctions [which, again, means that] you'll have to collect these in order to obtain a complete set of New Netherlands catalogues. At about this same time Kosoff renamed his periodical *The Coin Bulletin*; and in it may be found a number of his sales which belong in his series.

*Continued on page 16.*

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BOURNE . . . continued from page 13.

During this period, we also saw some publications by Spadone. He started out with *You Name It*. After two issues it was renamed *The Flying Eaglet*, and then for some reason he changed it to *Coin News*; and they had a law suit filed against them for [using] that name, so they changed it to *Coin Press*, and it was eventually purchased by *Numismatic News*.

The 1960's marked a veritable "population explosion" of numismatic periodicals. During this decade, more than 75 were offered. [There was] *The Penny*, which was devoted to errors; *The Numismatic Times and Trends*, and *The Coin Journal* — again, these are frequently found due to large volume printings. A couple of smaller ones (were) *The Numismatic Journal* and *The Metropolitan Numismatic Journal*, by Breen and Glazer, and I believe that there were only two issues of this offered.

Another family of publications that are popularly collected today is Bowers, Bowers & Ruddy, Bowers & Hathaway, and Bowers & Merena [titles]. Most of you know that these began with *Bowers Bulletin* in 1956, [followed by] *Empire Topics* in the late 1950's, continuing with *The Bowers Review* in the early sixties; *Empire Review*, *Choice and Desirable Coins by Bowers & Hathaway*, [culminating in] *The Rare Coin Review* in the seventies and eighties.

This ends my presentation, but I have a few more comments. Please remember that some periodicals could be the last surviving issue from the past. As such, they are **VERY** important — you have a responsibility to collect and preserve them for future researchers.

In addition to collecting these periodicals for their importance to future researchers, I think they should be shared and not hidden or merely possessed. I think they should be passed on and not institutionalized. I'd like to buy any obscure periodicals, and suggest that you contact George (Kolbe) or Cal (Wilson) for a fair estimate of their value. And, I'd also like to take a minute tonight to give special thanks to several people in our membership who have helped me in the past few years in collecting some of this material. I'd like to thank George Kolbe for his guidance and knowledge over the years; I'd like to thank Cal Wilson for his enthusiasm, support and eagerness; I'd like to thank my son, Mike Bourne, who was in the business, for his deep interest and help, and I hope that he may keep the tradition of sharing and caring alive; I'd like to thank the Katen's, who I thought would be here tonight, for helping me answer a lot of questions; I'd like to thank John Adams who is a true sharer and helper when you get to correspond with him; thanks to Armand Champa for his competitiveness and enthusiasm; to John Bergman for his true interest in this material; to Jack Collins, who has helped; to Kirby Brown who has been great in sharing information; to Reinhold Jordan . . . from Germany, for sharing and helping; and to my wife Avis Bourne who makes it all financially possible. For a lot of women in the audience tonight, it's just like, "I've gotta bid in this auction! It's never gonna appear again! Even though I told her that about last week's auction — It's my one chance to obtain this material, or it's gone forever!" To others that I've omitted or those who are too ill to attend tonight, I'd like to say thank you for this opportunity, and invite any of you to please write or call for sharing of this information. Thank you very much!

# You Name It

Michael J. Sullivan  
Winnetka, Illinois

The history of *You Name It* is unknown to most numismatic bibliophiles. In the early part of the 1955, John G. Spadone, a member of the U.S. Air Force, became interested in publishing a numismatic magazine. He proceeded to discuss his idea with Spiers Welsh, a New Jersey publisher, and Frank G. Spadone, John's brother. After discussing the idea in Frank's coin shop, the three men decided to publish a monthly periodical. John was appointed editor, Frank became assistant editor, and Spiers became the publisher.

The first issue appeared on May 1, 1955. Although it consisted of only a mere four pages of information and ads, it was the beginning of a magazine dedicated to the collector, as the first issue pointed out:

Fellow coin collectors this is our publication, since it will be named by one of our collectors throughout the country and will be printed to the ideas, needs and conveniences of all collectors.

A cash prize of \$25 was offered to the subscriber who submitted the most suitable title for the magazine. It was both John's and Frank's hope that the winning title would omit the words "coins" and "numismatics". The prize offer stimulated subscriptions at the bargain price of \$1 per year, but also allowed the readers to participate in the naming of "their" magazine.

John Vogel of Elkins Park, PA, a member of the U.S. Air Force, became the lucky winner by submitting *The Flying Eaglet* as the title. He derived the name from the first small cent of 1856 (unfortunately an unappreciated series today). The new name appeared on the third issue on July 1, 1955.

John Spadone continued as editor until December 1955 when he was transferred from New Jersey to the West Palm Beach AFB. Having been relocated, John relinquished the editorial duty to his brother.

Frank continued to improve the quality and content of the magazine as time went on. The periodical eventually averaged 20 pages per issue, had a wide variety of short articles, a few photographs, and the news from a myriad of coin clubs.

The September 9, 1959 issue bore a new title, *Coin News*. Frank's editorial included the following introduction to the nouveau title:

you have probably noted our new cover format and name 'Coin News', we hope you like them. With due respect, any similarity with other publications is unintentional. Our name and format is registered and copyrighted in Congress. We feel this will help our hobby as well as increase interest in sales and circulation. Our former name being unique gave little in the way of information of the type of publication it was. In a sense it was, I feel, a handicap in our growth. 'Coin News' is obvious [sic] two simple words but it tells a lot, anyone interested in this field will pick it up.

Although, as mentioned above, the new title was copyrighted, that did not prevent Chester Krause from voicing a strong objection to the title because he had been publishing a periodical of a similar title, *Numismatic News*, since 1952. Krause's editorial in his own publication blasted Spadone's title choice as being confusing. Instead of putting up a legal battle, Frank altered the name to *Coin Press* starting with the November 9, 1959 issue.

Spadone continued publishing the magazine through August, 1961. Krause took over *Coin Press* starting with the September, 1961 issue in which he stated that:

Our plans for the magazine's format are still in the formative stages. In general, are [sic] objective is to present a publication packed with good, solid numismatic information, presented in a manner that will add to every collector's enjoyment of his hobby.

Krause published only four issues of *Coin Press* before the magazine underwent its fourth name change to *Coins* magazine, which is still published by the folks from Iola, Wisconsin.

The following is a listing of the issues by title and volume of the *You Name It* series:

*You Name It* (2 issues) 1955

Vol. 1, No. 1, May 1, 1955

to No. 2, June 1, 1955 (2 issues)

*The Flying Eaglet* (50 issues) 1955-1959

Vol. 1, No. 3, July 1, 1955

to No. 12, April 1, 1956 (10 issues)

Vol. 2, No. 1, May 1, 1956

to No. 3, July, 1956

then to No. 16, Aug. 1, 1956

to No. 24, April 1, 1957 (12 issues)

Vol. 3, No. 1, May 1, 1957

to No. 12, April 3, 1958 (12 issues)

Vol. 4, No. 1, May 3, 1958

to No. 12, April 3, 1959 (12 issues)

Vol. 5, No. 1, May 6, 1959

to No. 4, Aug. 6, 1959 (4 issues)

*Coin News* (2 issues) 1959

Vol. 5, No. 5, Sept. 9, 1959

to No. 6, Oct. 9, 1959 (2 issues)

*Coin Press* (32 issues) 1959-1961

Vol. 5, No. 7, Nov. 9, 1959

to No. 12, April 12, 1960 (6 issues)

Vol. 6, No. 1, May 12, 1960

to No. 14, April 29, 1960 (14 issues)

Vol. 7, No. 15, May 18, 1961

to No. 24, Oct. 1961 (10 issues)

Vol. 8, No. 25, Nov. 1961  
to Dec., 1961 (not numbered) (2 issues)

*Coin Press* (1962 to date, Vol. 9 to date)

[NOTE — *Coin Press* was published bimonthly from March 1961 through September 1961. Krause took over the magazine beginning with the October 1961 issue.]

Please send any comments, suggestions, or additions to the author at: P. O. Box 461, Winnetka, Illinois 60093

### N.B.S. Regional Meetings

There will be a regional meeting of the N.B.S. during the November 13-16, 1986 Professional Currency Dealer's Show in St. Louis. The meeting will be held on Friday, November 14 at 4:30 in the Radisson Hotel. After the meeting, there will be an opportunity to walk to the Mercantile Money Museum, meet renowned numismatic scholar Eric P. Newman, and tour his library. For more information, write Ronald Horstman, 6137 Victoria, St. Louis, MO 63139.

There will be a regional meeting of the N.B.S. at the New York International Numismatic Convention, December 13-15. The meeting will be held on Saturday, December 13, 1986 at the Sheraton-Centre Hotel, Monarch Suite, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Richard Margolis, P. O. Box 2054, Teaneck, NJ 07666.

Orville J. Grady  
Numismatic Literature  
6602 Military Ave.  
Omaha, NE 68104

### The Kind of Telephone Calls I Like

Reinhold Jordan  
Schweinfurt,  
Federal Republic of Germany

Reading Mr. Orosz's "Articles of War", I felt that there should be some reaction. I do hope that my little story will be of interest to fellow-numismatiacs in our organisation.

Being an active collector of numis-

matic literature (every language, every numismatic subject) I used to have ads in different German-language coin magazines. Several years ago, my telephone rang and somebody asked me if I were that person collecting old books on coins.

I assured the man that I was the guy and asked what books he could offer me. Well, he told me, "I cannot say for I cannot read the language!" He added that he would like to have 65 marks (about 30 dollars) for this book as he himself had paid that sum for it a long time ago.

As it seemed rather problematic to me ordering a numismatic book only knowing that this book had not been printed in the German language, I proposed to my friend that he spell the title. This proved to be not very helpful and — already disappointed — I asked him to search for the year of issue. When I heard "1633" I didn't care about the title any more and ordered the book.

Some days later I got it — it had been sent as printed matter in an open envelope — and I was really happy. I had a coin catalog for "Changeurs ou Collectionneurs" (money exchangers or collectors) in the French language, printed in Antwerpen (Anvers), a port situated in present-day Belgium. In those days Belgium belonged to the Spanish crown, which is indicated by the crowned Spanish arms on the first page of the book.

The catalogue consists of 250 pages, each of which pictures a number of coins in good woodblock prints.

I've included, as an illustration, copies of the title page and a representative page from the text. We see crown-sized coins (Ryxdaldre = Reichstaler) issued by several German towns and states as Lüneburg, Holstein, Halber-

stadt, Henneberg, Mecklenburg, Nürnberg, Strassburg (now France) and Würtemberg. Although this book is not the oldest one in my numismatic library, it's one of those I like most. I'm still waiting for other calls like the one I got some time ago.

## ORDONNANCE ET INSTRUCTION

Selon laquelle se doibuent conduire,  
& regler dorese nauant les Chan-  
geurs ou Collecteurs des pieces d'or  
& d'argent deffendues, rognées, le-  
gieres ou trop vſées, & moiennant  
ce declairees, & reputées pour billon,  
à ce commis & fermementz, pour estre  
liurées és Monnoyes de sa Maiesté,  
& conuerties en deniers à ses coingz  
& ermes.



EN ANVERS,  
Chez Hierosme Verdussen, Imprimeur  
des Monnoyes de sa Maiesté, demeurant en  
la rue dicté Cammerstrate, à l'Euseigne  
du Lion rouge. 1633.

Ryxdalde de Lunenburg.



Ryxdalde de Holsteyn.



Ryxdalde d' Halberstadt.



Ryxdalde de Hennenberg.



Ryxdalde de Mecklenburg.



Ryxdalde de Mechelenburg.



Ryxdalde de Nurenberg.



Ryxdalde de Strasburg.



Ryxdalde de Wirtenberg.



Demy Ryxdalde de Wirtenberg.



# ‘Professionals,’ Pet Rocks, Pet Food and Pet Peeves

Miss Ing Link

[Who looks a lot like Carling Gresham, ed.]

Old PikYup, New Hebrides

(You've read similar (?) press releases in the hobby publications: If you recognize someone in here, it ain't our fault! Congealed from wires, closed lines and other saucers, without apologies. -IL)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE IF NOT SOONER

“N an inclusive intervue with Al E. Gator an Smile E. Gator (no relayshum,) prezidints electus an prospectus, respectus, Gangreen Groin Galleys, Ink., hav annouced that Jr. John Lokmeup is now mploied as a perfessional numismatick, where he'll handel all coins now held in the firm's firm grip, or suitcase, as the case maybe.

Lokmeup is a non-graduate off East Podunk, St. where he minored in the annual analysis an assyssmint of assynine cow patties, an other eklectrick XOnumiya; Jr. worked his way up THROU the ‘top of the pile,’ as they say.

A Gangreen spokesman, Al E. Gator, (no relayshun to Smile E. Gator,) reveeled that, “Jr. John is a Monopolo money color SPECIAList, havin worked on his collekshun for neerly a year or sometimes before; he plans to publish a five page book on the subject after the next blue moon, which will match the color of his rare \$50 bills. We know that his collekshun of 19 peaces is THE biggest in his hometown, Paisley Pall Peek, pop. 781 & 9/4 (three comin,) and growin.”

Before his currant Groin condishun, (should that read position?) he was mploied for to months an tin days at the Mpiractical Mpoorthem of Eckstassy, New Orleans, where he wrote copy for the yellow moose-litter, *Ruf Eons A’ Comin’*, owned an Eddyted by Ruf Gator, who is relayted to all hungry gators, including Al E. and Smile E., (who ain’t relayted to each other,) but Ruf bot Gangreen Groin Galleys after he learned how meny goldfish an even silverfish are nto coins ... an EVRYBODDY knows how gators LOVE those fish ... butt, anyhow, Ruf ,whose reel name is Ralf, neaded to Establish a posistiff Mage commeninsurable with his lenthly, (too months!) Xspairience in coins, so he sint Jr. to the Galley ... to rite copy to.

Smile E. Gator, (no relayshun to Al E. Gator,) praysed Jr’s work at his former pozishun, noting that Jr. has Ncreased the mooselitter cirqlayshun by .000427 persint. “Fathermore,” Smile E. sed, “Jr. wint to an accidental gradin akademy out in Coloroddy fer a HOLE weak, an NOW he are a gradin Xspurt! Why, he’s so good, he can outSPURT his teechers by five feats or more!”

“With neerly a year in the business, it ESTABlishes young Jr. as a perfessional numismatick in every since of the term, despiet beein only 14 years old.” Al E. Gator, (no relayshun to Smile E. Gator,) added, adding, “We like ‘em young in the Groin, virgians, you mite say, so’s we can slide in ‘em as proper graders an teech ‘em to grade sliders properly.”

Smile E. Gator (NO relayshun to Al E. Gator,) smiled an sed, “That’s rite ... our hole staff is maid up of perfessional numismatics. Why, our combed staff has neerly

too years Xspearience between thim in the Groin, a reel H1 in the busyness, an weere darn proud of the number of sliders weeve slid off cents we opened this sharpe shope sixe weeks ago."

"Yezzir, weere PROUD to be perfessionals in Gangreen, an you tell evryboddy to step in our Groin for a reel kik, (chuckle,) an tell 'em to 'Bring ther green to Gangreen,'" Al E. Gator, (no relayshun to Smile E. Gator,) sed, in clothin, smilin.

*(to be continued in the next issue)*

## On the Record

David W. Lange

San Francisco, California

### THE JOURNAL OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

*The Journal of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society* was initiated in October of 1984 as the fulfillment of a desire on the part of then Society President Osmyn Stout, with the full backing of the other officers and board members. Initially, I was asked to be editor of *The Journal* but declined on account of my already full workload. Still just as busy, I nevertheless agreed in January of this year to relieve Stephen Huston. Steve, who is known to collectors of ancient coins as a dealer in that field, had done an excellent job in creating and maintaining *The Journal* through its first six issues.

To date, eight issues have been published on a quarterly basis. Although additional material for publication is always being sought, there appears no likelihood that *The Journal's* publication will be interrupted. I welcome any questions or comments from the readers of *The Asylum*.

## Reviews

*The Man Who Stole Portugal* by Murray Teigh Bloom. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1966.

Bloom's book is quite enjoyable, although it is certainly NOT light reading. It tells the story of Artur Alves Reis, a bankrupt businessman turned con-man and counterfeiter. Reis' scheme made him, briefly, one of the richest men in Europe. His bold crime eventually destroyed one of England's greatest banknote printing firms, scandalized the Bank of Portugal, and enabled a military takeover of the Portugese government.

The story was nicely summarized in the final chapter of Bloom's 1957 book, *Money Of Their Own*. This full-length version describes in detail Reis' plan, as it unfolds in Lisbon, Paris, London, and The Hague. Most of the book deals with the years 1924 and 1925, although the epilogue follows the main characters through 1964.

Bloom has obviously one a tremendous amount of research. The story is a fascinating one, yet I found the amount of information somewhat overwhelming. The numismatic element of counterfeiting was overshadowed by descriptions of family histories, political maneuvering, and the like. Of course, the book was not written for a

numismatic audience. Keeping that in mind, it succeeds as an intriguing account of a near-perfect "Perfect Crime".

Wayne K. Homren  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*British Numismatic Auction Catalogues 1710-1984* by Harrington E. Manville and Terence J. Robertson. London: A. H. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd., 1986, 420pp.

This massive compilation and commentary has long been in the works and proves to be well worth the wait. It is the first part to be published of the author's projected *Encyclopedia of British Numismatics*, a monumental four-part undertaking.

The subject of British numismatic auction catalogues is dealt with in the ANS' list of sales catalogues in its library and in Frits Lugt's listing of some 57,000 sales catalogues of all categories up to 1900. However, the ANS' resources cover only a small part of what has been drawn together by Manville and Robertson, who have also identified some 300 numismatic titles lacking in Lugt's pre-1900 listing.

The authors' presentation of their extensive material is convenient and readily usable. Their method is to list all catalogues chronologically with each year's group numbered sequentially and each decade preceded by an introductory page discussing trends and highlights. Each entry records the auction house, the sale dates, consignors, types of material and number of lots, number of pages, Lugt number as available, and the main libraries in the US and the UK where the catalogue may be found. Comments occasionally accompany the entry, more often they appear as footnotes. The authors have done a very great deal of painstaking digging and sifting to discover the cover names of major anonymous consignors, to trace the true course of events with certain important collections and to call attention to different versions of some key catalogues. The cumulative result of their work is to provide both breadth and depth of perspective and good insight into the prevailing business and professional customs of succeeding generations of numimatists.

Although over 200 different auctioneers are represented, most were ephemeral. Contrary to the US experience, the near-monopoly of a few houses came early and endured. Christies and Sotheby were firmly set by the late 18th century and for over 100 years they accounted for well over half of all sales. It was not until early in the 20th century that Glendinings came on the scene; within a dozen years "Glens" had moved to the top of the list. These three and the more recently established Spink auctions still dominate the field.

Although they canvassed all the major libraries and holdings, the authors warn there are still disturbing lacunae. Surprisingly, copies of some of the earlier catalogues of the major houses have not come to light — not even in these firms' own archives. The present volume will stand as the standard reference, with supplements to be published at intervals determined by the volume of stray additional data accumulated.

The two dozen or so pages, each introducing the listing of catalogues of a given decade, trace the growth of the numismatic auction trade, the development of catalogue style, major auctioneers' share of the market, and recapitulate the chief "name" sales. Taken together, these pages provide a first-rate running narrative covering two and three-quarter centuries. For example, the mid-19th century saw a

quite extraordinary array of sales of coins consigned by returned travellers and colonial servants. The 1930's depression years brought a more-than-average flow of foreign consignments and also shook out many of the provincial auction firms, leaving the field more firmly in the hands of the old London houses. The narrative closes with the early 1980s. The tempo and volume of sales continues to rise: at the current rate there will likely be over 600 auctions of numismatic material in the UK during our decade — an average of five a month!

This work's main objective is to facilitate research, particularly as regards pedigrees, and it is indeed a powerful tool. An appendix includes US and continental sales of coins and medals of important consignors such as Count Ferrari's executors and Lord Grantley's, whose material appeared also in British sales. Another useful appendix presents notes on many non-auction purchases and offerings of well-known collections or parts thereof. An index identifies all owners and consignors. And from footnotes quoting contemporary commentators, one also finds that cataloguing, even by the major auctioneers, was far from uniform in quality.

The Manville-Robertson team accomplishes its work with one author based on this side of the Atlantic, the other in the UK, but it is abundantly evident they work in close coordination and have mobilized almost every possible source. The publishers, Baldwin and Spink, provide not only logistical support on the generous scale an undertaking of this importance merits, but are ideally positioned to contribute in a major substantive way as well. All in all, the British Auction Corpus is an outstanding addition to the literature, a milestone in the process of refinement of organized and accessible knowledge of a vast and important field.

The book is stoutly bound in buckram. The text, produced on a word-processor but clear and sharp, is printed on fine paper with generous margins.

Randolph Zander  
Alexandria, Virginia

*Editor's note: British Numismatic Auction Catalogues is available from:*

A. H. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd.

11 Adelphi Terrace

London WC2N 6BJ

*United Kingdom*

£25.00 (plus carriage)

Spink & Son Ltd.

5, 6 & 7 King Street

St. James's

London SW1Y 6QS

*United Kingdom*

£25.00 (plus carriage)

George Frederick Kolbe

Post Office Drawer 3100

Crestline, California 92325

\$45.00 postpaid

**DEADLINE** for Winter, 1986 submissions is **November 10, 1986.**

## The Last Word

### "The Rest of the Story"

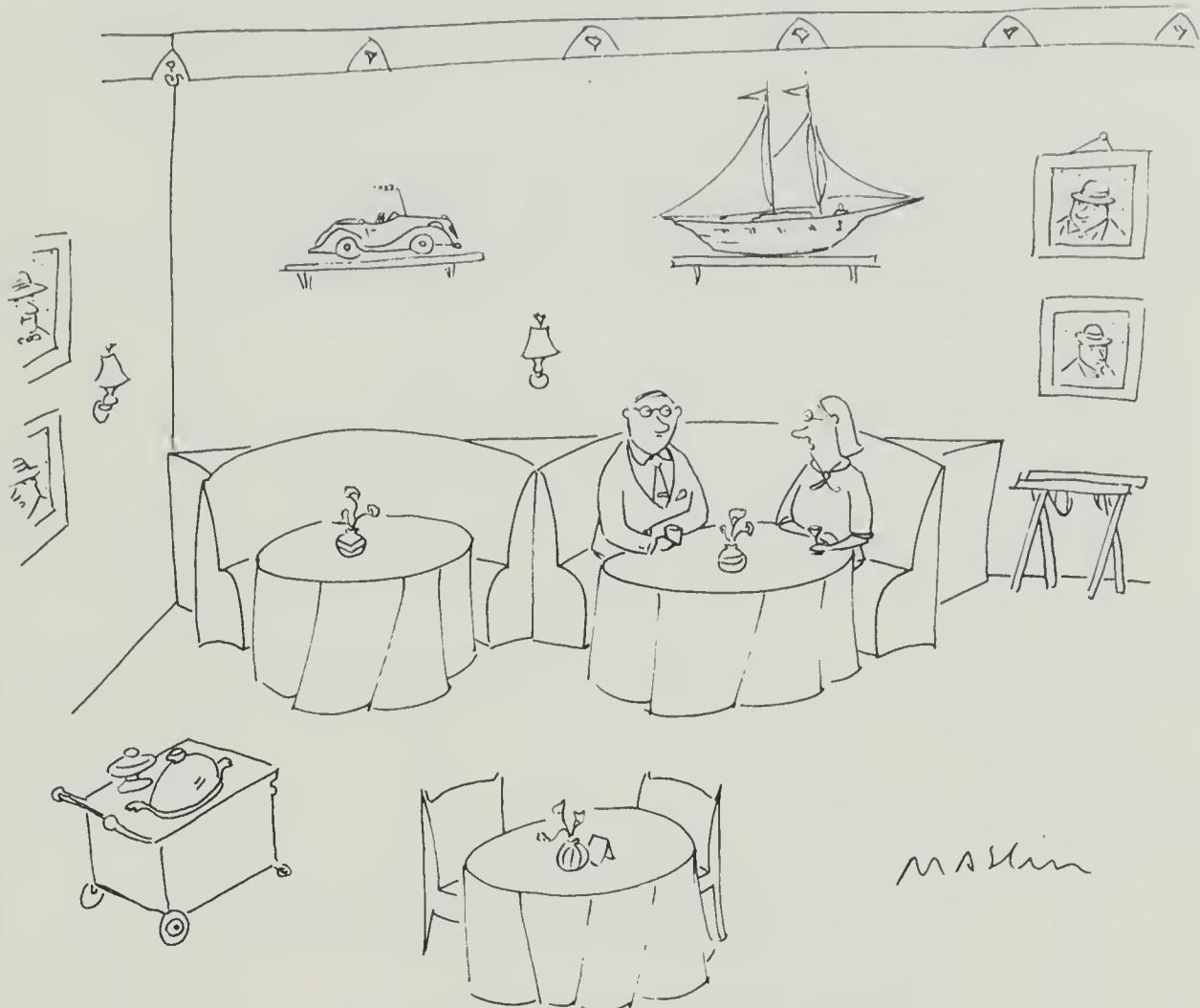
Those who read the contents of this space in the last issue will recall that your editor criticized the A.N.A. for enjoining Howard Ruff from saying anything "negative about coins or coin dealers". Both your editor and N.B.S. member Dean S. Neff of Greenville, Ohio took this protest one step further by writing to Ruthann Brettell, Executive Director of the A.N.A., to request an explanation for this indefensible action. Both Dean and your editor received a reply from A.N.A. Education Director Kenneth Bressett. Mr. Bressett furnished to both of us a photocopy of the letter he sent to Howard Ruff on July 17, 1985, inviting him to speak at the Salt Lake City Midwinter Convention. The last two sentences of that letter read as follows: "The only constraints for you will be that no specific dealers can be endorsed or condemned. Other than that, the show is yours." This being a far cry from the spirit and the letter of the above *Coin World* quote, your editor next telephoned that periodical's editor, Beth Deisher, who informed us that the "anything negative" line was a direct quote from Ruthann Brettell, *as she was attempting to explain the contents of Bressett's letter to Ruff*. In short Bressett's innocuous admonition was inadvertently transformed, by means of Brettell's maladroit paraphrase, into an intolerable assault on free speech. In even shorter short, it was all a misunderstanding. Now you know (as Paul Harvey would say) the rest of the story.

### Crisis and Opportunity

Not since Caesar found it necessary to destroy the Roman Republic in the process of saving it has the world seen anything quite like the decision made by the A.N.A. Board of Governors in their meeting of June 28-29. By adopting the byzantine grading system of the PCGS group of dealers, the A.N.A. Board took standards that were already too arcane for most collectors and investors, and multiplied their complexity. As a result, virtually every collector and investor is now helpless to use the grading system, which leaves them entirely to the tender mercies of the dealers. The inevitable result will be rip-offs on a monumental scale and a massive exodus of hobbyists from numismatics.

We are told, however, that the Chinese character for "crisis" can also be read as "opportunity". And so it is that the crisis of the coin collectors is a great opportunity for bibliophiles. The pollutants that have made the coin hobby intolerable — micrograding, investment hype and overpricing — are virtually unknown to bibliophiles. The things that once attracted hobbyists to coins — a mass of desireable, reasonably-priced material, honest dealers, sensible grading and the thrill of building a collection — are benefits bibliomania offers in abundance. Thousands of collectors will be driven from their hobby in the coming months by the travesty that grading has become. Let us make it our business to transform as many of these shell-shocked souls into bibliomaniacs as we possibly can. Perhaps a paraphrase of Aaron Feldman's famous dictum should be our rallying cry: "Buy the book instead of the coin"!

# “LOVE, NUMISMATIC STYLE”



*“It was twenty-six years ago tonight, at this very table, that you asked me to begin checking my loose change for Indian-head nickels.”*

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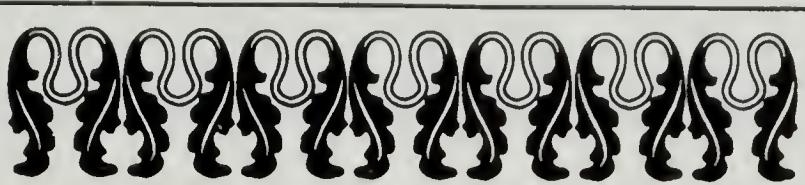
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